

some nations, however, are not playing by the rules.

Barriers to agriculture are the most pressing issue for my home State of Nebraska, but every industry is subjected to outdated tariffs and nonscientific barriers which countries fashion to protect their own domestic industries.

If the U.S. fails to lead, our exports will be placed at a competitive disadvantage to those from countries moving forward with aggressive trade agendas. To enhance U.S. leverage in the marketplace, we need to pass the Bipartisan Trade Priorities Act. By renewing this act, we would demonstrate seriousness about formulating enforceable, science-based rules and empower the rest of the world to follow suit.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AGENDA

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, all you need to do is watch one episode of "Mad Men" to know that women in the workforce have come a long way. While we would like to say that everything is better now, we certainly know that is not the case.

On the central coast of California and across the United States, women continue to earn less than men for equal work. Child care costs more than college tuition. Access to earned paid family leave, maternity leave, and sick days is lagging. These are barriers for women, but they also have a ripple effect on their families and on our local economies.

We are not powerless to address this, and that is why I hosted an open community forum last week to explore the many ways that we can support an economy that works for women and families. That is why we need a vote on the Women's Economic Agenda, a slate of legislative proposals to strengthen the middle class and our local economies. Because we know that when women succeed, America succeeds.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, this week, our Nation observes the 63rd National Day of Prayer. Leaders have been gathering in our Nation to recognize this day since Congress recognized it in 1952. We have always been and still remain a nation under God.

This week, I will continue to pray for our Nation. I will pray for my colleagues who serve with me here in Congress. I will pray for the people I serve in south Mississippi. I will pray that God Almighty continues to watch over our people and that he will continue to bless this land.

Also, my prayers and my thoughts are with all those in my home State of

Mississippi and throughout the country who were affected by this week's storms. I want to thank my colleagues who have reached out to my office and to our delegation.

This week, as we bow our heads once more to observe the National Day of Prayer, we also remember the 35 lives lost, the loved ones who mourn them, and the hundreds of communities who are picking up the pieces to rebuild their lives.

□ 1215

NOMINATION OF SHERYL LIPMAN

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will consider the nomination by President Obama of Ms. Sheryl Lipman to be a district court judge in the Western District of Tennessee.

Yesterday, with less than 60 votes, cloture was lifted in the Senate.

Ms. Lipman will assuredly be confirmed by the Senate today. She is an outstanding jurist whom I recommended to the President. She was counsel to the University of Memphis, an esteemed attorney in private practice, and the executive director of Diversity Memphis, a group that brings people together. She was recommended by a bipartisan group of ad hoc lawyers in Memphis as the highest-qualified person seeking the position. She will serve the district well.

I commend President Obama for his nomination, and I thank Senators ALEXANDER and CORKER for their bipartisanship in voting for the lifting of cloture, voting for her today, and helping this nomination come about.

COMMEMORATION OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, to pay respect to over 12 million people, including 6 million Jews, systematically murdered by the Nazis. We learn how ordinary men and women can turn a blind eye to massive suffering and death.

This January, I traveled to Poland to observe the 69th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. We were joined by representatives and parliamentarians from 60 different countries, over half of the Knesset from Israel, and many, many survivors.

The memory of the Holocaust is seared forever into the consciousness of a generation of people who survived it. Through their stories, the lessons of that dark time serve as a warning to future generations.

In the words of Elie Wiesel:

Human suffering anywhere concerns men and women everywhere.

It is with that sentiment I vow: never forget, and never again.

SEXUAL ASSAULT ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it astonishes me that by the time women graduate from college, one in five will be a victim of sexual assault.

Colleges are institutions of higher learning, and no student—especially young women—should ever feel threatened on the campus that they call home for 4 years.

I applaud the President for announcing a series of efforts to strengthen Federal involvement and provide schools with the tools needed to end sexual assault on campuses. We must work across the aisle to put an end to this violence and to give victims the support they need.

The new Web site launched yesterday, notalone.gov, will do just that: increase transparency through annual surveys and information on the prevalence of sexual assault on campuses.

As a member of the third class of women ever to graduate from Dartmouth College, I was proud to see President Phil Hanlon step up to address unsafe and inappropriate behavior on the Dartmouth campus and to see the University of New Hampshire recognized for its initiatives to reduce sexual violence on campus.

We must continue to address these issues head-on and ensure a safe and secure environment for learning for all college students, men and women.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4486, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4487, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 557 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 557

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member